osmotic function is a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons and has an isoelectric point less than 8.

2. (currently amended) Composition suitable as a substitute for plasma comprising a solution of saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration and a protein having a colloid osmotic function ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protein having a colloid osmotic function is a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons and has an isoelectric point of less than 8.

3. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

4. (currently amended) Composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point from at least 4 to at most 7.

5. (currently amended) Composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the number of negatively charged ~~aminoacid~~ amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the number of positively charged ~~aminoacid~~ amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, preferably at least 3.

6. (currently amended) Composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

7. (currently amended) Composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1

wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid.

8. (currently amended) Composition according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. (original) A process for using a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons as plasma expander, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8.

10. (original) A process for using a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons as plasma expander, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8.

11. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~9 or 10~~ 9 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

12. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~9-11~~ 9 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point from at least 4 to at most 7.

13. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~9-12~~ 9 wherein the number of negatively charged ~~aminoacid~~ amino-acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged ~~aminoacid~~ amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, preferably at least 3.

14. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~9-13~~ 9 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

15. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~9-14~~ 9 in which the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.